

editorial endorsements
Ballot measures

Today's ballot carries a number of measures that cover everything from creating a new gas tax to amending the Eugene human rights ordinance to make it illegal to discriminate on the basis of "sexual orientation."

Here is how the Emerald feels about the proposed measures:

#51: Without hesitation, the Emerald believes measure 51 should be rejected. We have argued continuously on this page that gay people are entitled to the same human rights as anyone else, and we adhere to that stand. Contrary to the distorting reasoning of the pro-51 people, the measure will not create a "San Francisco" north, and we don't think it will do anything more than give some people the right to take discrimination complaints to a legal authority. That is a good goal for any ordinance or city, and sexual orientation should be included in the human rights ordinances.

Please remember that a "no" vote indicates you believe the phrase should be included. A "yes" vote means you don't think gays should be protected under the law.

#1: A "yes" vote on measure 1 will mean home rule counties, of which Lane County is one, must allow a specific amount of time for voters to gather petitions for referendum and initiatives. We endorse the measure. This means that voters will be assured of having enough time to gather as many signatures as necessary. Currently, County Commissioners set the length of time allowed for signature gathering, and that needs revision because the commissioners may set a time too short for voters to overturn an ordinance the commissioners themselves have approved.

#2: This measure, which essentially requires the state Legislature to adopt rules by which it will obey the Oregon open meetings law, also deserves a yes vote. The legislature is not currently bound by the provisions of the open law meetings, and it should be. Committee meetings are especially in need of being opened. Voting in favor of this measure will help, and it certainly won't do any harm.

#3: Housing for low income elderly people has long been a problem not only for Oregon, but for the nation. This measure gives bonding authority to the state to allow the financing of multi-family housing units for the low-income elderly. It easily warrants a "yes" vote.

During times of inflation, which we are now so accustomed to, the elderly, who are often on fixed incomes, are the hardest hit by rising housing, food, energy and other costs. Any help for the elderly is a good idea.

#4: We don't think measure 4 should be passed for two reasons. First, the measure would create funding for areas needing water supplies, but paid for by all the residents of the state. Since some areas have already developed water piping systems through local property taxes, these people would be paying the tax and getting no benefit from it. Second, the measure is open-ended, something of a blank check for the next legislature. The enabling legislation would have to be passed, and we think the voters should know exactly how this bonding mechanism will work before the constitution is amended.

#5: A new gas tax for Oregon highway improvement is good idea, so this measure should pass. Voting yes for this measure will mean road repairs will be made, making roads safer. The tax will increase by two cents; not a high price to pay for making the roads safe.

We are troubled by one provision, which says that the increase will not be used for bikeways, parks or anything else other than road repair and maintenance. But we feel that these necessities will be provided by other means, perhaps by legislative allocations.

#6: This measure calls for abolishing decompression chambers for the killing of unwanted animals. Instead, injections of sodium pentobarbital will be used. We think the decompression chamber has been adequately shown to be a bad method of killing unwanted pets. Killing animals systematically is a grisly affair no matter what the method, but injections are a more humane way to do it. This measure deserves a yes vote.

#7: We have some problems with the proposed income tax for the support of the Lane Transit District, primarily because this tax will shift the burden of LTD support toward the citizens and away from the business who benefit from LTD ridership. But we also think LTD is a fine transit system that deserves the support of area people. We urge — a bit reluctantly — a yes vote on measure 7.

We base our support for measure 7 on the supposition that the businesses in the area will still be supporting LTD at a fair ratio, which is essential since businesses benefit from the transit system.

Letters

No on Measure

Homosexual women and men are frequently the victims of fears and prejudice in our society. Last fall, the Eugene City Council recognized this and adopted a "sexual orientation" clause to Eugene's anti-discrimination ordinance. The clause is designed to protect Eugene citizens from discrimination in public accommodations, housing and employment on the basis of their sexual preferences.

Unless you've been living in a cave for the last few weeks, you know that voters face a very important referendum Tuesday, May 23 — the outcome of which could see the repeal of our gay rights ordinance. You can vote no to discrimination in Eugene; you can vote NO on ballot measure 51.

Gays and gay rights supporters do not seek special privileges for gays through the proposed city ordinance. The ordinance merely attempts to ensure that all Eugene citizens enjoy the same basic rights to housing, employment, and public accommodations.

This ordinance is important and necessary because gays do encounter unfair discrimination. Those who doubt this can study a 1975 OSPIRG report, "Homosexuality, Employment and Discrimination," that is available at OSPIRG and ASUO. Even more convincing, though, are the incidents of discrimination lesbian women and gay men recount so easily.

An individual's sexual preference should not be a criterion for employment. It also should not affect one's access to housing and public accommodations. Sexual preference is a personal characteristic that has nothing to do with ability.

The ordinance will not end discrimination. Despite many laws and statutes, women, blacks, Chicanos and other minorities still live with discrimination and inequality. But the ordinance will provide legal support for those who suffer discrimination. And, it will become part of our ongoing struggle for equality.

We urge all students to vote in this most important upcoming election. If you are a Eugene resident and not registered to vote, come by Suite 4, EMU and pick up a voter's registration form.

Vote against the repeal of Eugene's gay rights ordinance; vote no on 51.

**Kelli Osborn
ASUO Vice-President, 1977-78
with 9 co-signers**

For Bylund

The Emerald editorial staff apparently does not understand the difference between non-partisan and apolitical. Lane County voters know that the Assessor's job is inherently political and have more than once voted to keep the office responsible to the people by turning back attempts to make it appointive.

Ken Bylund certainly is political, and he knows who he's working for. He's working for the vast majority of the people of Lane County, not for the developers and wealthy individuals who support his opponents, and not for the County Commissioners or their appointees on the Board of Equalization.

The Emerald ought to be more than "a bit concerned" about the supporters of the former bank manager they endorse. Bain's rich contributors are trying to regain the privileges they enjoyed before Ken Bylund took office. Many of his contributors are people like the developer who built Valley River Center who want to carry less than their share of the tax burden. The

Endorsements in brief

Democratic GovernorEmily Ashworth
Republican GovernorTom McCall
Democratic U.S. Senatorno endorsement
Republican U.S. SenatorMark Hatfield
Democratic CongressmanJim Weaver
Republican Congressmanno endorsement
County Commissioner (Springfield).....Bill Morrisette
County AssessorWilliam Bain
Eugene City Council: Ward 1Jim Johnston
Ward 4Gretchen Miller
Ward 5Liz Heath
Ward 6Eric Haws

Eugene Water and Electric Board:

At largeno endorsement
Wards 4 and 5John Bartels
Ballot measures: #1yes
#2yes
#3yes
#4no
#5yes
#6yes
#7yes
#51no

developers want anyone but Bylund, and so some of them are also backing Dwyer. It's politics — the politics of vested interests.

Ken Bylund's effort ever since he took office has been to distribute the taxes fairly by valuing property fairly. He has always been on the side of working people and of human rights. He has a long history in Eugene of supporting striking workers and farmworkers. He was active against the Vietnam War back in 1966, long before that was a popular stance. We should keep Ken Bylund working for us.

**Susan Joyce,
Senior, CSPA**

For Craig

Jack Craig, candidate for Eugene Water and Electric Board, was endorsed by the Oregon League of Environmental Voters. Last week he was endorsed by the Westside News, a neighborhood paper. Therefore, I was disappointed with the Emerald's non-endorsement between Jack, a proven leader and his opponent with a lack-luster, pro-nuclear record.

Jack received the endorsement of City Councilmen Jack Delay and Scott Lieuallen; Commissioner Jerry Rust; State Representatives Grattan Kerans and Nancie Fadeley; former EWEB member John Reynolds; Marion Frank, member of the state Energy Facility Siting Council; Mike McCellan and Bruce Walker former Directors of the Survival Center and Jane Novick and Chris Attneave active members of Eugene Future Power Committee.

Jack served as a State Representative from Lane County, as President of South University Neighborhood Association and Jack is currently a member of Lane County Transit Board. Jack has been Administrative Assistant to the Speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives and Administrative Assistant for the Oregon Senate Committee on Aging. He has worked extensively as a reporter for local TV and newspaper.

Therefore, the comment Jack lacks "political savvy" seems naive to me. With Jack's strong support for solar and alternative energy, his commitment to strong conservation measures, his stand against nuclear expansion, his past support for Measure 9 (the Nuclear Safeguards Act) and his promise to involve the public in planning it seems an endorsement would have been in order.

**Mike Ryan
830 S. Bertelson Rd, Eugene**

For Miller

If you live in Ward 4, you have a chance to make a lot of difference in city government by voting for Gretchen Miller for city council next Tuesday. She's independent of narrow interests, she's worked for her neighborhood for years, she's concerned about and disposed to learn ways of dealing with growth so that we don't lose "Eugene," she's committed both to a strong economy and environmental enhancement. If you live in Loral Hill, the Fairmount area north of 19th and east of Agate, or across the river east of Coburg Road, you can vote for Gretchen. Her vote on the council will very likely make a lot of difference.

**Dan Goldrich
Prof., Political Science**

No on 51

As Jews, members of the Jewish Student Union steering committee feel particularly sensitive to the issues at stake in ballot measure 51. We hope people don't forget one of the lessons of Nazi Germany, that denial of civil rights is the first step toward a bridgement of human rights.

Discrimination against a selective group of people has no place anywhere. That we are even deciding how others can live their personal lives is not our right. Whether we approve or disapprove of homosexuality is not really the question.

The Jewish Student Union steering committee is firmly opposed to ballot measure 51 and strongly encourages the University community and the people of Eugene to vote NO on measure 51.

**Jerry Forse
Jewish Student Union**

For Haws

I would like to urge members of the university community living in Ward 6 (Bethel) to cast their vote for Eric Haws for City Council. Eric Haws is an experienced, responsible member of the Council who has stuck his neck out in voting for the Human Rights Amendment, reaffirmation of the ERA in Oregon, and other important measures. He is being challenged by conservative candidates who would vote quite differently on such issues. He deserves — and needs — the votes of those who want a voice like his to be heard on the Council. Vote for Eric Haws on May 23.

**Steven Rendall
Assoc. Prof.
Ronance Languages**

Tuesday, May 23, 1978